

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 20925 131707Z
ACTION EUR-12

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R 131655Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4049
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, WB, GW, TW, CH
SUBJECT: CHINESE PROPERTY IN BERLIN

REF: USBER 2629

1. FONOFF EAST ASIA CHIEF (HELLBECK) IS NOT AWARE OF ANY MOVES PRC EMBASSY MAY HAVE MADE CONCERNING THE CHINESE PROPERTY IN BERLIN. ACCORDING TO HELLBECK, PRC HAS SHOWN LITTLE INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY, SHRINKS FROM CLAIMING IT BECAUSE IT DOES NOT REALLY UNDERSTAND THE LEGAL AND POLITICAL SITUATION IN BERLIN, AND LOOKS TO THE FRG TO RESOLVE ANY PROBLEMS.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, HELLBECK SEES NO PROBLEM IN THE PRC'S CLAIMING THE PROPERTY IF IT CHOOSES TO DO SO. ALL THAT IS NECESSARY, ACCORDING TO HELLBECK, IS AN APPLICATION BY THE PRC, THROUGH AN ATTORNEY, TO THE CHARLOTTENBURG DISTRICT COURT TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE PROPERTY'S OWNER FROM THE CHINESE EMPIRE TO THE PRC. THE COURT WOULD PRESUMABLY REQUEST THE VIEWS OF THE FONOFF, WHICH IN ITS REPLY WOULD POINT TO DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION BY THE FRG OF THE PRC. IN HELLBECK'S VIEW THE COURT WOULD BE COMPETENT IN THIS CASE AND THERE WOULD BE NO REASON

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PAGE 02 BONN 20925 131707Z

TO CONSULT EITHER THE ALLIES OR THE SENAT.

3. IN CONTRAST TO DISINTEREST ON PART OF PRC IN PROPERTY, HELLBECK UNDERSTANDS THAT TAIWAN HAS PAID MODEST SUMS FOR UPKEEP AND THE SALARY OF A CARETAKER OVER THE YEARS. THIS HAS NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT, HOWEVER, TO PREVENT THE PROPERTY FROM FALLING INTO DIS-REPAIR.

4. COMMENT: HELLBECK'S VIEWS CONFLICT WITH MORGEN-POST STORIES REPORTED REFTEL BUT TRACK WITH VIEWS OF KINZE, WITH EXCEPTION OF KINZE'S ESTIMATE OF DEGREE OF PRC INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY. HELLBECK MAY NOT BE OUR BEST WITNESS IN THIS MATTER, SINCE HE HAS NOT FOLLOWED IT CLOSELY, BUT THERE IS LITTLE EXPECTATION OF EARLY ACTION FROM HIS VIEWPOINT.
STOESSEL

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